

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 89-499-E - ORDER NO. 90-131
FEBRUARY 6, 1990

IN RE: Application of Carolina Power & Light) ORDER APPROVING
Company for Proposed Changes in Meter) MODIFICATIONS
Testing Procedures)

On August 31, 1989, Carolina Power and Light Company (CP&L) filed with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) a request for Commission approval to incorporate certain changes in CP&L's testing procedures for watt-hour meters.

CP&L currently conducts periodic tests of meters in accordance with the provisions of Commission Regulation 103-370(1), which requires that all meters be tested with frequencies ranging from four to eight years depending on the type of meter, except the utilities may utilize Commission approved Sample Meter Testing Plans in lieu of periodic testing for single phase watt-hour meters. CP&L is requesting Commission approval to incorporate three (3) changes in CP&L's testing procedures for watt-hour meters. The changes are as follows:

1. Adoption of the current and future American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) meter testing schedule (Code C12.1) as the standard for periodic meter testing for CP&L combined with an accelerated periodic test program when the percentage of fast

meters in a group under periodic testing exceeds a predetermined level in lieu of the test frequencies stated in Commission Regulation 103-370(1)a. through c.

2. Permit statistical sampling as an option to periodic testing for all meter types.

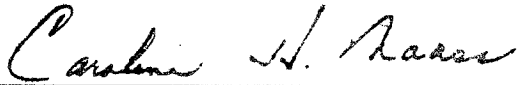
3. Allow the use of a double-sampling-for-attributes plan in addition to the presently approved single-sampling (attributes or variables) plans.

The adoption of the current ANSI periodic test requirements coupled with an accelerated testing program would provide more protection to customers against the possible use of fast meters than the periodic test program currently required in Regulation 103-370(1) according to CP&L. Results of the periodic tests will be filed annually with the Commission as a part of the report required by Regulation 103-370(1)d. The Commission's Regulation 103-370(1)d currently only allows the statistical sampling of single phase watt-hour meters. CP&L herein is proposing in its revised statistical sampling program to be allowed to statistically sample all meter types as an option to periodic testing. While CP&L's proposal would grant it the ability to statistically test all types of meters, CP&L will likely exclude some types of meters from statistical sampling and use periodic testing. The double-sampling-for-attributes plan is constructed such that it would have the same operating characteristic curves as other plans, therefore the double-sampling plan offers the same protection to customers against the use of fast meters. The

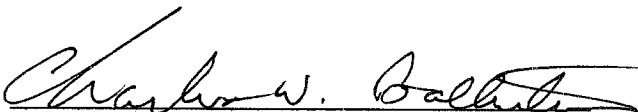
primary advantage of double-sampling over single-sampling is that under certain conditions it can reduce the number of meters required to be tested. The proposed changes for meter testing are expected to reduce CP&L's costs by an estimated \$329,000 per year, without any sacrifice in customers' protection against fast meters.

The Commission finds that CP&L's proposal should be approved. CP&L should also file in conjunction with its annual filing of the meter testing results a copy of its meter testing results required by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)